

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4784

To establish the Internet Freedom Foundation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2010

Mr. WU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Science and Technology

A BILL

To establish the Internet Freedom Foundation, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Internet Freedom Act
5 of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Freedom of conscience, freedom of speech,
9 freedom of the press, and freedom of association are
10 fundamental human rights.

1 (2) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of
2 Human Rights declares “Everyone has the right to
3 freedom of opinion and expression; this right in-
4 cludes freedom to hold opinions without interference
5 and to seek, receive and impart information and
6 ideas through any media and regardless of fron-
7 tiers.”.

8 (3) The Internet is a transformative force and
9 stands to become the most powerful engine for cit-
10 izen empowerment, transparency, and the free ex-
11 change of ideas ever invented.

12 (4) Any government, or government sanctioned,
13 supported, authorized, or endorsed entity, either ex-
14 plicitly or implicitly, that blocks, restricts, controls,
15 or monitors any person’s use of the Internet effec-
16 tively transforms the Internet into a tool of censor-
17 ship and surveillance, in contravention of the Uni-
18 versal Declaration of Human Rights and the Inter-
19 national Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

20 **SEC. 3. INTERNET FREEDOM FOUNDATION.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNET FREEDOM
22 FOUNDATION.—The National Science Foundation shall
23 establish the Internet Freedom Foundation. The Internet
24 Freedom Foundation shall—

1 (1) award competitive, merit-reviewed grants,
2 cooperative agreements, or contracts to private in-
3 dustry, universities, and other research and develop-
4 ment organizations to develop deployable tech-
5 nologies to defeat Internet suppression and censor-
6 ship; and

7 (2) award incentive prizes to private industry,
8 universities, and other research and development or-
9 ganizations that successfully develop deployable tech-
10 nologies to defeat Internet suppression and censor-
11 ship.

12 (b) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this
13 Act shall be interpreted to authorize any action by the
14 United States to interfere with foreign national censorship
15 in furtherance of law enforcement aims that are consistent
16 with the International Covenant on Civil and Political
17 Rights.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

19 The term “Internet suppression” means censoring,
20 blocking, monitoring, or restricting access to the Internet,
21 or to content made available via the Internet, by using
22 technologies such as firewalls, filters, and “black boxes”.

23 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of the Congress that the United States
25 should—

1 (1) publicly, prominently, and consistently de-
2 nounce governments and private entities that re-
3 strict, censor, ban, and block access to information
4 on the Internet; and

5 (2) support the deployment, at the earliest
6 practicable date, of technologies aimed at defeating
7 state-directed and state-sponsored Internet suppres-
8 sion and the persecution by governments and private
9 entities of those individuals who use the Internet.

10 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Inter-
12 net Freedom Foundation such sums as may be necessary
13 to carry out this Act.

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